

REMARKS

Prior to this response, Claims 17-57 were pending, Claims 17-32 being rejected and Claims 33-57 being withdrawn from consideration. Claims 17-32, 58-66 are now pending in the present application, Claims 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29 and 32 having been amended and Claims 58-66 having been added. In response to the Office Action dated September 6, 2007, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the above-captioned application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following arguments.

Ting Does Not Anticipate Claims 17-32

The Examiner rejected Claims 17-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,077,251 to Ting et al. Applicant respectfully traverses the present rejection and submits that Ting does not anticipate Claim 17-32.

Ting discloses a device for injecting medical agents through needles that are straight at or near their respective ends, as shown in Figures 2 and 4, reproduced below. Ting does not disclose or suggest needles that are bent or curved at or near their respective ends.

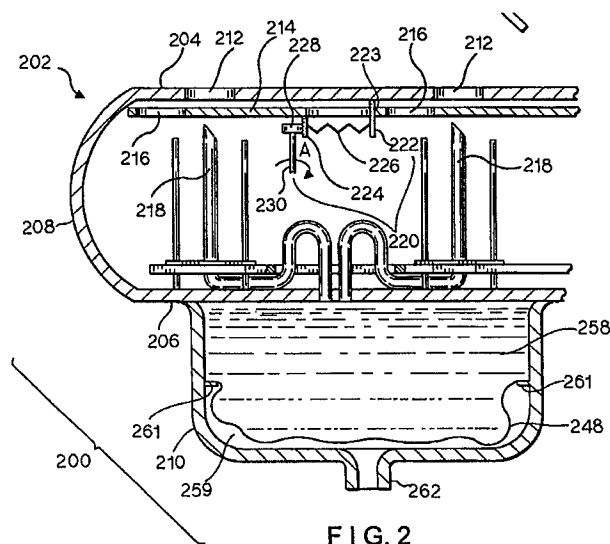


FIG. 2

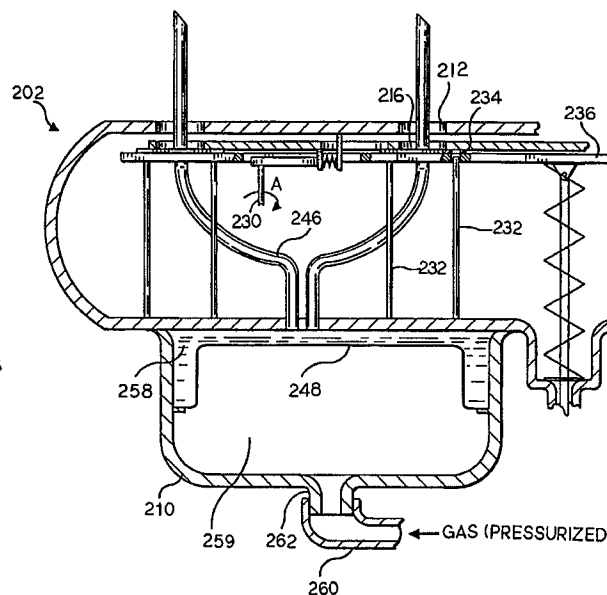


FIG. 4

The pending claims are neither disclosed nor suggested by Ting. For example, Claim 17 recites “a plurality of needles that are bent or curved at or near a sharpened end thereof.”

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Also in contrast to Ting, Claim 26 recites:

a hub and a passage in the hub; and
a plurality of needles extending from the hub and in fluid communication
with the passage in the hub, the needles being bent or curved at or near an end
thereof.

Thus, for at least these reasons, Ting fails to render unpatentable the claimed invention. Claims 18-25 and 27-32 are allowable not only because they depend from allowable independent claims, but also on their own merit. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of all pending claims.

New Claims 58-66 are Patentable

New Claims 58-66 each depend, either directly or indirectly, from one of Claims 17 and 26. Thus, Claims 58-66 are allowable not only because they depend from allowable independent claims, but also on their own merit. These claims do not add new matter and are in condition for allowance.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, the Applicants are not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. The Applicants reserve the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that the Applicants have made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant has endeavored to address all of the Examiner's concerns as expressed in the Office Action. In light of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 17-32 and 58-66 are allowable. If any issues remain outstanding the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's counsel by telephone.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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